

Application No. 10/072,149
Amendment C
Reply to Office Action of August 14, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended) An erosion control system comprising:
a flexible matting including

a core layer formed of a fiber matrix in order that comprising randomly oriented fibers, the fiber matrix forming a substantially flat upper surface and a substantially flat lower surface; and

a permanent upper layer bonded to the substantially flat upper surface of the core layer;

C the flexible matting being structured to resist trapping of sediment within the matting and to allow flowing particulate matter to pass freely over the matting during a hydraulic event in order to control erosion of a substantially unvegetated sloped surface when the matting is placed on a substantially unvegetated sloped surface.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The system of claim 1 wherein the matting fiber matrix comprises a compacted fiber matrix ~~has a density of at least about 0.5 pounds per square yard.~~

Claim 3 (currently amended): The system of claim 1 wherein the matting has a density of at least about 0.5 pounds to about 0.7 pounds per square yard.

Claim 4 (previously amended): The system of claim 1 wherein the matting has a Mannings "N" value of roughness of less than about

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0.044.

Claim 5 (Previously amended): The system of claim 1 wherein the matting has a Mannings "N" value of roughness of about 0.026.

Claim 6 (Original): The system of claim 1 wherein the flexible matting is structured to substantially prevent soil loss from the sloped, unvegetated surface when the surface is exposed to at liquid flow at a velocity of greater than about 9.5 feet per second and less than about 20 feet per second.

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Claim 7 (Original): The system of claim 1 wherein the flexible matting is structured to prevent substantial soil loss from the sloped, substantially unvegetated surface when the surface is exposed to a liquid flow having a duration greater than about 30 minutes to about 50 hours.

Claim 8 (Original): The system of claim 1 wherein the flexible matting is structured to prevent substantial soil loss from the substantially unvegetated, sloped surface when the surface is exposed to flow conditions having velocities of greater than about 9.5 feet per second to about 20 feet per second and a duration of greater than about 30 minutes to about 50 hours.

Claim 9 (Original): The system of claim 1 wherein the fiber matrix comprises a material selected from the group consisting of coconut fibers, flax fibers, polypropylene fibers and combinations thereof.

Claim 10 (Original): The system of claim 1 wherein the upper layer comprises a geogrid.

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Claim 11 (Original): The system according to claim 10 wherein the upper layer comprises a biaxial geogrid.

Claim 12 (Original): The system of claim 11 wherein the biaxial geogrid is stitch bonded with the core layer.

Claim 13-22 (canceled)

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Claim 23 (Previously added): The system of claim 1 wherein the fiber matrix has a substantially continuous, uniform thickness defined between the substantially flat upper surface and the substantially flat lower surface.

Claim 24 (Previously added): The system of claim 1 wherein the flexible matting is further structured such that the upper layer remains bonded to the substantially flat upper surface of the core layer.

Claim 25 (Currently amended): The system of claim 1 wherein the upper layer and lower layer both comprise a polypropylene netting stitch bonded to the core layer.

Claim 26 (Canceled)